AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

61. **(Currently Amended)** A composition comprising an amount of an isolated monoclonal antibody effective to ~~prevent~~ provide protection against staphylococcal infection in neonates and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the antibody specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of Lipoteichoic acid (LTA) of *Staphylococcus* and is of the IgG isotype, wherein the antibody binds to and enhances opsonization of multiple serotypes of *Staphylococcus epidermidis,* coagulase negative staphylococci, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus mutans* by phagocytic cells with or without complement as compared to an appropriate control in an in vitro opsonization assay, wherein the antibody binds the same epitope to which MAB 96-110 antibody binds, and wherein the MAB 96-110 antibody is produced by the hybridoma deposited at ATCC Accession No HB-12368.

62. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61, wherein the opsonization assay is performed in the presence of complement, phagocytic cells, or both.

63. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 62, wherein the complement or cells or both are human in origin.

65. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 62, wherein the phagocytic cells comprise macrophages, monocytes, neutrophils, or combinations thereof.

66. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 62, wherein opsonization is measured by determining opsonophagocytic bactericidal activity.

77. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*, or antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the heavy and light chain variable regions of monoclonal antibody 96-110 set forth as SEQ ID NO:87 and SEQ ID NO:89.

79. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody comprises a portion of a human antibody sequence.

80. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 79, wherein the portion of human antibody sequence comprises an Fc region.

81. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds LTA exposed on the surface of the cell wall of *Staphylococcus* bacteria.

86. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody binds to serotype 5, serotype 8, or both serotype 5 and serotype 8 of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

91. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody reduces LTA-mediated inflammation, LTA-mediated cytokine production, or combination thereof.

93. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 77, wherein the antibody is an Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, or sFv fragment of an antibody.

94. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61 or 77, further comprising at least one additional monoclonal antibody having specificity for LTA.

95. **(Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an antibody of claim 77, for use in a human neonate.

96. **(Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide encoding an antibody, or fragment thereof, of claim 61 or 77.

97. **(Withdrawn)** The polynucleotide of claim 96, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the variable region of the antibody, or fragment thereof, has at least 70% identity to the polynucleotide set forth in FIG. 12.

98. **(Withdrawn)** A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 96.

99. **(Withdrawn)** A cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 96 or the vector of claim 98.

100. **(Withdrawn)** An antibody, or fragment thereof, produced by a cell comprising a polynucleotide or vector comprising a polypeptide encoding an antibody of claim 61 or 77.

101. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 61, wherein the antibody is of the IgG1 isotype.

104. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*, or antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises the heavy chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:87.

105. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*, or antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises the light chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:89.

106. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising the heavy chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 and a variable region having 80% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

107. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 106, wherein the variable region has 85% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

108. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 106, wherein the variable region has 90% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

109. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 106, wherein the variable region has 95% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

110. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a light chain comprising the light chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 and a variable region having 80% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

111. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 110, wherein the variable region has 85% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

112. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 110, wherein the variable region has 90% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

113. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 110, wherein the variable region has 95% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

114. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 heavy chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:87 and having at least 70% amino acid identity with the monoclonal antibody 96-110 heavy chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:87.

115. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a light chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 light chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:89 and having at least 70% amino acid identity with the monoclonal antibody 96-110 light chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:89.

116. **(New)** A composition comprising an isolated anti-LTA monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the anti-LTA monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment is produced by a process comprising

(a) providing a population of anti-LTA monoclonal antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof; and

(b) selecting an anti-LTA monoclonal antibody or antigen binding fragment that

(i) specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*,

(ii) binds to and enhances opsonization of multiple serotypes of *Staphylococcus epidermidis,* coagulase negative staphylococci, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus mutans* by phagocytic cells with or without complement as compared to an appropriate control in an *in vitro* opsonization assay, and

(iii) binds to the same epitope to which MAB 96-110 antibody binds, wherein the MAB 96-110 antibody is produced by the hybridoma deposited at ATCC Accession No. HB-12368.